

10-1-2018

Parkland Student Involvement

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How Has Student Involvement Changed?

- Our hypothesis is that student involvement has decreased throughout the years due to factors such as time, family, and work.

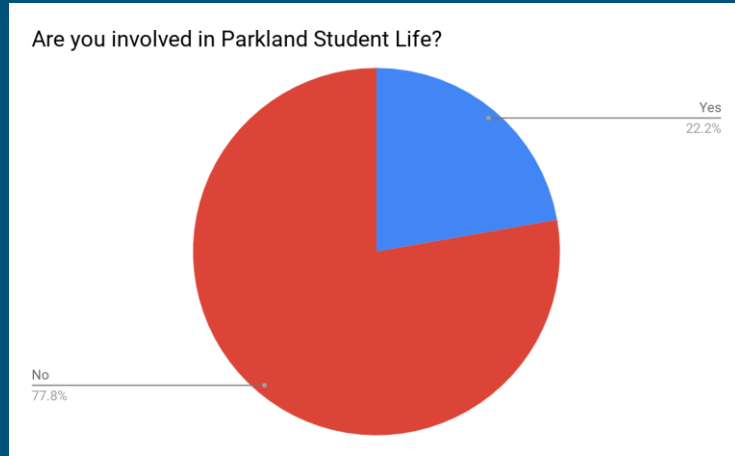


How to Track Student Involvement

- We conducted an ethnographic qualitative study on the Parkland student community.
- Our study focused on student involvement in organizations as well and more generally, with life at Parkland. In order to do this, we explored different aspects of Parkland such as Study Abroad, Athletics, Student Life, Archives, Student Club Presidents and the Dean of Students.

Surveys at the U-Wings

The ethnography method used was survey observation. We did this by handing out paper surveys in the U-Wing, which is the Student Union.



Student Union

Factors in Student Involvement Through Survey

Factors that motivate one to be involved:

- Meet new people in a new environment
- Sports scholarships

Factors that motivate one not to be involved:

- Work
- Time
- Family



Exterior of Student Union

Interview with Evie Newman: Effects of Student Involvement

Evie Newman reported that being involved in schools have a massive benefits.

- One is that students are 82% more likely to graduate because they connect to faculty and peers in a more personal way.

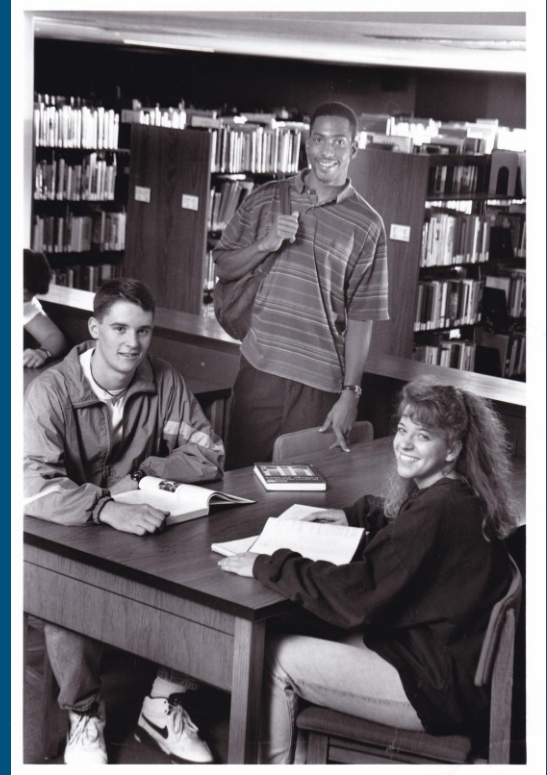


Photo courtesy of the Parkland College Archives

Interview with Evie Newman: Student Life Decrease

Nationwide, student involvement has decreased. More students have additional life commitments.

Examples:

- Student taking care of their children
- Cost of college increasing so students have to work more
- Large international student populations
- Students do not want to put themselves out there

Interview With A Club President

Interview with Club Latino co-president Diane Barrios-Smith

- What motivates you to be active in your club?

Being Mexican, she is automatically gravitated towards social issues affecting Latinxs. Additionally, she appreciates the support from the club and how active they are in helping with increasing awareness of community struggles.

- What benefits do you receive by being in your club?

The fulfillment of helping her community and lifting people up. She wants to see her community succeed.

Interview With A Club President

- Do more students participate in spring or fall?

There is more student involvement during the Fall semester when new students are joining and seeking new clubs, whereas during the Spring semester, students may leave the clubs and not rejoin.

- How active are you guys in the community?

Moderately active in the Parkland community, especially with Race Talks with Dean Turner, but more active in the Champaign-Urbana community by working with migrant worker programs, helping the Latinx community, etc.

Study Abroad

- Based on our survey, 82% of students knew what it was while 18% did not.
- Requires 12 credit hours under belt, 2.75 GPA, completed English 101 with B or better.
- Average of six to eight students in the Summer, three in the Spring, and two to three in the Fall.



France, 2017

Interview with Dean of Students: Marietta Turner

Biggest challenge to student life and student organizations:

- Students are busier, their lives outside of school demand more of their time
- Almost the same percentage of traditional students coming from our district area as 10 years ago but a lot more are working, working more hours, are in the pathways program
- Fewer students attending full time, more students going part time

Interview with Dean of Students: Marietta Turner

“In the old days”

- Students would spend the day going to classes and hang out afterwards, joining clubs/organizations and student government.

Currently:

- It is tougher to engage a student and get them to commit to student life and student clubs/organizations

Parkland Archives

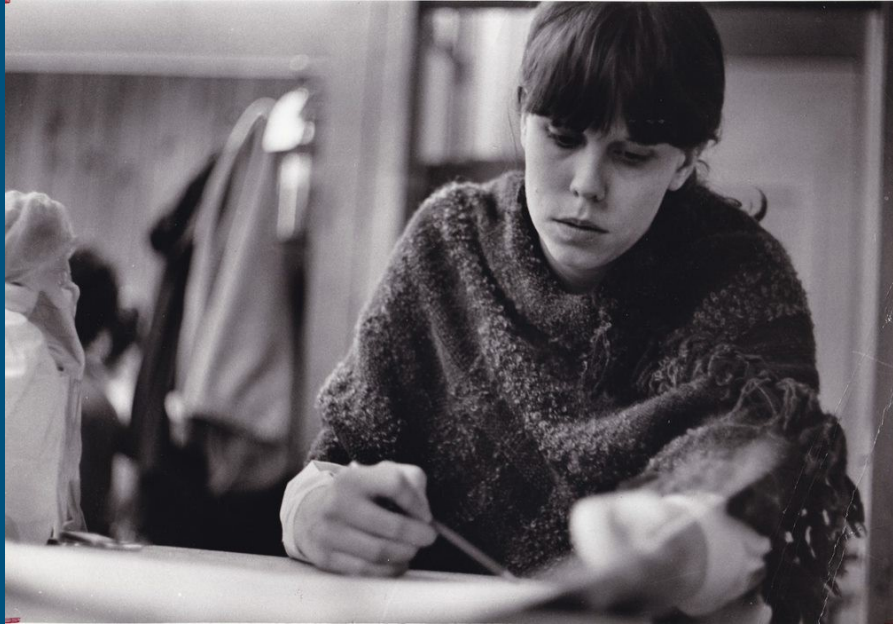
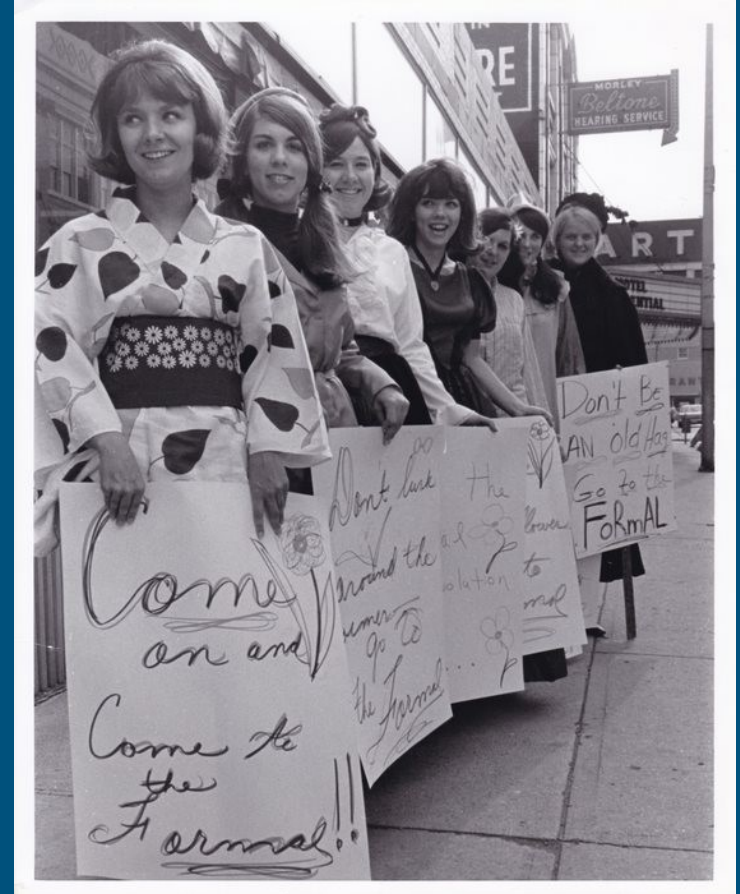


Photo courtesy of the Parkland College Archives

Parkland Archives



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Casino



Night

Powder Puff Football



Athletics

- Parkland offers top notch facilities, not only for the students, but the community as well.
- In 2008, roughly 10% of athletes transferred into a 4 year institutions to continue playing. Currently 50% of athletes continue on.



Dodds Fitness Center

Honors Program

- Member of the National Collegiate Honors Council
- Requires a 3.0 GPA, with 3.5 by the time of graduation.
- Scholarships granted at the end of every semester.



Conclusion

In conclusion, we found that student involvement has decreased. In the past, Parkland students participated more in clubs/organizations, events, and stayed on the campus longer after class. This is mainly due to factors such as students working more, taking care of family, and have other life commitments.

Works Cited

Picture from Slide 5:

Singer, Patrick. Parkland College Offering Community Workshops Throughout the Fall,
http://www.smilepolitely.com/splog/parkland_college_offering_community_workshops_throughout_the_fall/, 2017.

Picture from Slide 4:

Logan, Sam. Virtual Tour of Parkland College's New Student Union,
http://smilepolitely.com/culture/virtual_tour_of_parkland_colleges_new_student_union/, 2014.